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Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

Letter dated 6 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose herewith the explanation of the position of Egypt on the resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement to the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-seventh session

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by our colleague, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

On the tenth anniversary of the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, the Commission on Population and Development has just adopted a consensus resolution reaffirming the outcomes of the Cairo Conference. This reflects the continuous support to the Cairo agenda on matters pertaining to population and development and exemplifies the need to continue exerting efforts, at all levels, towards the attainment of the goals, principles and commitments contained in the report of the Conference (A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1) in its entirety. This was clearly stipulated in Cairo, and is clearly highlighted by the resolution adopted during this session.

In this regard, my delegation would like to underscore the necessity of the full respect, by all Member States, of the outcomes of the Cairo Conference as contained in the said report, as well as the report of its key actions. These reports include the Programme of Action, its principles, goals and commitments and the reservations of a large number of Member States, including Egypt. In this context, my delegation reaffirms its position expressed at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and at its five-year review in 1999, and would like to point to its continuous efforts, at the national level, to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind its clear provision, in the preamble to the principles, that such implementation is "the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights".

Furthermore, at the international level, Egypt will continue to oppose the reinterpretation of language pertaining to traditional family values or any other concepts contained in documents, such as the Cairo Programme of Action in a manner that is inconsistent with its position. Egypt will continue to be steadfast in its opposition to and rejection of any attempts to impose new concepts or ideas that are inconsistent with its cultural values and religious beliefs.

I would like this statement to be duly reflected in the official report of the Commission.